

# THE BAPTIST Record

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## Memorial receives 20-ton deposit

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

It was a sight rarely encountered in downtown Jackson — or anywhere else, for that matter — when \$30,000 in pennies were delivered on March 8 by armored truck to the Memorial to the Missing outside the Baptist Building.

The Memorial to the Missing is a Mississippi Baptist campaign designed to draw attention to the 50 million babies that have been aborted in America since the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalized abortion in all fifty states throughout all nine months of pregnancy. Each penny contributed to the Memorial represents one of those aborted babies.

The goal of 50 million pennies for the Memorial is now in sight, said Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission and coordinator of the one-of-a-kind project. He estimated the Memorial currently holds 30 million-plus in pennies.

"It is exciting to see the generosity of Mississippi Baptists in support of this important cause. At the same time, it is humbling and sobering to understand that each penny is a memorial to a baby who was never born because of our country's turning away from the sanctity of human life," Porter said.

"The Memorial is not about the politics of abortion or the medical arguments surrounding this issue. The Memorial is purely about the babies who are not with us today due to more than 34 years of legalized abortion. They should not be forgotten in all the noisy debate over abortion," he pointed out.



**RAINING PENNIES** — The first of ten 2,000-pound bags of pennies is deposited in the Memorial to the Missing located outside the Baptist Building in Jackson. The Memorial is designed to hold 50 million pennies — each one a remembrance for a baby that has been aborted in America since the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973 legalized abortion in all 50 states throughout all nine months of pregnancy. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

"None of us could imagine what fifty million pennies would look like, but now as we get closer it is astounding," said Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "When you view them and try to think of them being fifty million missing babies — aborted children — it is stunning and will break your heart."

The Memorial is located on the northwest corner of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board property at 515 Mississippi Street, and faces the state's Capitol Building. It was dedicated in May 2006 with a rally during which the first pennies were poured into the container, specially designed to hold 50 million pennies weighing 160 tons and totaling \$500,000.

Concrete pilings more than 16 feet deep support the thick concrete pad that serves as the floor of the container. A super-strong polycarbonate material serves as the "glass" on all four sides, making the container transparent.

The \$30,000 penny delivery followed an earlier \$15,000 delivery to the Memorial, both part of a special offering currently being conducted by the churches of the Mississippi

Baptist Convention in support of the Memorial. The \$30,000 delivery — 20 tons in all — was so heavy that it had to be delivered in a special stretch armored truck and unloaded with a heavy-duty forklift from Briggs Equipment Company in Jackson.

Churches and individuals who wish to contribute to the Memorial need not collect pennies. Checks will be converted to pennies upon receipt and placed in the Memorial. At the conclusion of the campaign, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation will administer the \$500,000 in gifts to the Memorial and direct 100% of the funds to pro-life programs.

For more information, contact the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: [rwood@christianaction.com](mailto:rwood@christianaction.com). Web site: [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).

One of the greatest benefits of the Memorial is the opportunity to put in front of people the atrocity of legalized abortion in America, especially for young people who don't know a time when abortion was considered to be the taking of a human life, according to Porter.

"Hardly a day goes by without someone or some group of people stopping to look at the Memorial and praying for the cause. Last week, a group of women came to the Memorial and formed a prayer chain around it. They each prayed for the babies and then quietly went on their way. It was very moving, and something we see quite often."

"The Memorial leaves an impression that never really goes away," he said.

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**HEAVY-DUTY DELIVERY** — Workers from Loomis Fargo armored truck company and Briggs Equipment Company in Jackson work to unload one of ten 2,000-pound sacks of pennies bound for the Memorial to the Missing outside the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson. The penny delivery required a special stretch armored truck and heavy-duty forklift due to the weight of the pennies. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)





## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# Fifty million reminders of an atrocity

There were a lot of slack jaws around the front of the Baptist Building in Jackson on March 8, as employees of Loomis Fargo armored truck company and Briggs Equipment Company in Jackson unloaded 20,000 pounds of pennies into the Memorial to the Missing. If you're counting, that's three million pennies or \$30,000.

So massive was the penny delivery that Loomis Fargo had to call in a special, heavy-duty "ten-wheeler" armored truck to handle the load. Briggs likewise had to bring a large industrial forklift just to move that much weight. With ten ballistic nylon bags — each weighing 2,000 pounds — to be emptied into the Memorial, a lot of special planning had to be done.

It was impressive. With armed guards surrounding the armored truck and the Memorial, the ten bags were offloaded in metal frames that prevented the pennies from shifting inside the bags during transport from the U.S. Mint. Once in place in front of the Memorial, the bags were unstrapped from the frames and lifted high overhead.

A Loomis Fargo guard then climbed to the top of the Memorial and broke the seal that secured the chute on the bottom of the bag. With a gentle tug on the chute, pennies began pouring into the Memorial like water. The cycle was repeated ten times, until all the bags had been relieved of their contents.

The \$30,000 penny delivery followed on the heels of a \$15,000 delivery just a few weeks before. The pennies were gifts from Mississippi Baptists and others through a



**BIG DELIVERY** — A guard for Loomis Fargo armored truck company looks on March 8 as 2,000 pounds of pennies cascade into the Memorial to the Missing outside the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson. The Memorial is designed to bring attention to the 50 million babies who have been killed since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973 in all 50 states during all nine months of pregnancy. Ten of the one-ton bags, which held a combined total of \$30,000, were unloaded into the Memorial. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

special offering that has been ongoing since the January anniversary of the horrendous *Roe v. Wade* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1973 that legalized abortion in all 50 states throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

The Memorial to the Missing is a Mississippi Baptist campaign to draw attention to the 50 million babies that have been killed in this country by abortion since 1973. Each penny given represents one of those babies.

With the Memorial now more than two-thirds of the way to the 50-million-penny goal, few days pass without someone or some group stopping by the Memorial to view the pennies, pray, and cry. Like the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., the Memorial to the Missing has a profound emotional and spiritual effect on people. In the case of the Memorial to the Missing, it's people who have been touched in some way by the tragedy — the atrocity — of the American Holocaust that is legalized abortion.

"The Memorial leaves an impression that never really goes away," says Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission and coordinator of the project.

Sadly, he's right.

*Editor's note: Churches and individuals who wish to contribute to the Memorial need not collect pennies. Checks will be converted to pennies upon receipt and placed in the Memorial. At the conclusion of the campaign, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation will administer the \$500,000 in gifts to the Memorial and direct 100% of the funds to pro-life programs.*

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- Scholarship for new student to participate in a collegiate retreat
- Meat to feed 125-150 people barbecue, promoting a new church start

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- Music equipment and accessories for a new church



# NAMB missionaries hit the beach for Jesus

GULF SHORES, Ala. (BP) — The Gulf Coast of Alabama is blessed with an usually warm, emerald-green ocean for swimming and sugar-white, soft-sand beaches. It's a paradise that draws six million people a year, but 70% of them don't know Christ.

Jeff and Thea Ford are North American Mission Board (NAMB) resort missionaries who head up Gulf Area Resort Ministries in neighboring Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Ala., on the Gulf of Mexico.

"Someone once told me that lost people are most open to the Gospel two times in their lives," Ford said. "The number one time is during a crisis and the second time is during times of recreation, leisure, or vacation."

The Fords are among the 5,300-plus missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. He was one of eight Southern Baptist missionaries highlighted as part of the annual Week of Prayer on March 4-11.

The 2007 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$57 million, 100% of which is used for missionaries like the Fords. In addition to NAMB, the couple is supported by the Baldwin Association and the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

Ford's ministry varies in focus depending on the season of the year. Fall and winter on the Alabama Gulf Coast attract senior adults — "snowbirds" as Ford affectionately calls them — from the North and Midwest. They come to the Gulf Coast for up to six months to escape harsh winters back home.

"During our snowbird ministry in the winter, we hold worship services at local campgrounds and have a bicycle club



WITNESSING IN ALABAMA — North American Mission Board missionary Jeff Ford (left) plans beach evangelism strategy with summer missionaries Derrick Fields (center) and Matt Goins on the Alabama Gulf Coast. Some six million people visit Alabama's beaches each season. (NAMB photo by John K. Swain)

where Thea and I ride bikes with the snowbirds, just trying to build relationships. We may have 200 of them at a worship service. Due to the snowbird ministry, Thea and I feel like we have hundreds of grandparents, and when we all get together we're the only ones there not retirement age!" Ford said.

Ford's busiest time of year is spring break and summer, when college, high school and junior high students, and kids with their families, swarm the Alabama Gulf Coast beaches.

Starting with a website called [www.barefootbelievers.com](http://www.barefootbelievers.com) for potential volunteers and a NAMB-developed program called "Innovators" for collegians, the Fords use a myriad of methods to creatively spread the Gospel on the beaches.

"Barefoot Believers" comes from Romans 10:15, where the Apostle Paul refers to a verse in Isaiah that says, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the Good News."

"We spend a lot of time barefoot on the beach handing out bottles of water, Frisbees with the Gospel message imprinted on them, setting up face-painting and hair-wrap booths, or feeding people cold watermelon," Ford said. "We just want to have a presence."

Ford said his spring and summer ministry also uses worship services, Christian music concerts, backyard Bible clubs and other forms of beach evangelism.

"Last year, we worked with about 1,000 Barefoot Believers. These were senior adults, adults, families on mission trips, and a lot of students from college-aged down to junior high-aged. We even had some children volunteers."

Ford also uses "Innovators" teams of college-students for whom he finds summer jobs in

the Gulf Shores or Orange Beach areas. They may work most of the day in a local hotel, resort or tourist attraction, then spend the rest of their day supporting Ford's ministry by witnessing or teaching Bible studies to children at a local hotel, condo or resort.

"A lot of college students say, 'I can't be a summer missionary because I have to work and earn some money for school,'" Ford said. NAMB's Innovators program allows them to do both.

"People talk about Gulf Shores and Orange Beach as being party places," Ford said, "but I believe the true party is the abundant life, and that party only happens through a relationship with Jesus Christ."

As cliché-sounding as it is, many of the kids visiting the beach are searching for something. The student volunteers Ford supervises have found that "something" and are eager to share the secret of a relationship with Christ with other kids on the beach.

## Believer arrested

BEER SHEVA, Israel (BP) — The arrest of a Messianic Jewish evangelist in Israel reflects the strife that often confronts Messianic Jews despite Israel's guarantees of religious liberty and without any repercussion from law enforcement officials, the leader of a Messianic congregation told Baptist Press. Messianic evangelist Eddie Beckford was arrested outside his business, the Chess and Bible Shop in Arad, after a mob of ultra-Orthodox Haradim Jews surrounded his van in the parking lot and beat him on Feb. 25. "In general over the years here in the south in the Negev, in Arad and in Beer Sheva, there has been some form of harassment or persecution," Howard Bass, leader of the Nahalat Yeshua congregation in Beer Sheva, said. Groups of ultra-Orthodox Jews seem to have a difficult time accepting the fact that some Jews would believe that Jesus is the Messiah and that they would want to evangelize other Jews, Bass said. So those anti-Messianic groups work to stop the people they consider "missionaries" through various degrees of persecution. Beckford, an American, was arraigned before a judge in Beer Sheva Feb. 28 and was offered a plea bargain of spending 45 days in jail or agreeing not to return to Arad for 45 days. He chose to stay with friends outside Arad rather than serve a prison sentence, and his wife was trying to retrieve his identification card which was confiscated by police in Arad. Beckford's arrest preceded the introduction of a bill by an Orthodox political party seeking to sentence proselytizers in Israel to one year in prison.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

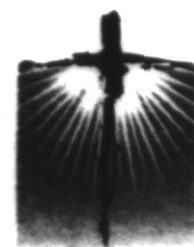
People from all over the state gather under a tent at Camp Garaywa in Clinton to dedicate the site for a new adult lodge. Jerry Rankin, president of the SBC's Foreign Mission Board, attends the site dedication, along with national Woman's Missionary Union executive director Dellanna O'Brian.

### 20 years ago

"There's no room for spectators here," says Don Creel, pastor of Bayside Church, a mission church of First Church, Bay St. Louis. "We're trying to mold together a team to do something for the Lord." Bayside enrolls 113 in VBS, with a daily attendance of more than 80.

### 50 years ago

Miss Florida Waite, director of Church Library Service, Sunday School Board, Nashville, will direct the first church library workshop ever to be held on a Baptist college campus at Mississippi College.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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ANNIE  
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FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

**National Goal:**  
**\$57,000,000**

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2. I want forgiveness for my  
sins and freedom from eternal  
death. (*I repent.*)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose  
from the grave to forgive my  
sins and to restore my rela-  
tionship with you.  
(*I believe in Jesus.*)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus  
Christ into my life. From this  
time on, I want to live in a lov-  
ing relationship with Him. (*I  
receive Christ as my Savior  
and Lord.*)

*"But as many as received him,  
to them he gave the right to become  
children of God, even to those who  
believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact a  
local Baptist church for spiritual  
guidance.*

## THE LOCK IS ON BACKWARDS

The story that I am about to tell you actually happened, and while it sounds crazy it was one of those thunderbolt, insightful moments that helped me to understand what has happened to some of us in our churches. The names, places, and faces of the story will remain anonymous, but the facts are as it happened:

A pastor had moved to a new place of service in our state and in looking for a place to live they had decided that they would build a new home. Everything was going well. In fact, it was all coming together toward the finished product. As they neared the end of construction they were going to have the appliances delivered on a certain day and the pastor had asked the builder if he would put locks on the doors so that when the appliances were delivered somebody looking for new appliances would not carry them off. The builder said he would take care of it and sent some of his men to put the new locks on the new doors.

Later the pastor went by just to check and see if everything was completed. Sure enough they had installed the locks, but to his astonishment they had put them on backwards. That's right. You could lock folks in the house, but you couldn't lock them out. Later the pastor saw the builder, told him the dilemma, they had a good chuckle, and the builder assured the preacher the locks would be corrected.

As only the Lord can arrange such things, I just happened to be standing by as this interesting scenario unfolded. Hearing what had happened but finding it a little bit difficult to understand simply because of the strange twist, I asked, "Now what exactly did they do?" The pastor said, "Well, they installed the locks backwards. Anybody that wanted to get in could go in but you could lock the door to keep folks from going out." Immediately I thought to myself that is what has happened in many of our churches. We have the locks on backwards. Those of us inside the church with all of God's blessings and the understanding of a Savior that can transform the world with a



## Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

love that is unspeakable and full of glory, joy, energy, and a touch of heaven itself don't seem to be able to get out to share it with others. Just think about all of the wonderful things that we have locked up inside our churches that would make a world of difference if they could just get out and be unleashed in our world.

**Think about the genuine loving ministry that takes place in the church.** I have watched as saints have cared for one another during some of the most difficult times in life. Through a long extended illness they just kept on praying for one another, bringing food that seemed to make more difference in a person's life than medicine, and speaking encouraging words that turned on the lights in the life of someone in despair. I have watched as people have gone out of their way, freely given their time, reached deep into their resources to share money through special offerings, and have literally gone the second and third mile to help one another and especially to lift up someone who could not get up and go on their own. I have watched as people who are going through deep grief experiences have been surrounded by loving comforters who stood by them, undergirded them, and enabled them to see the breaking of a new dawn in their life. I have watched as people have provided transportation for people who had no way to go, folks who have given jobs to people who had nowhere to turn, and other people who have given shelter to folks who had nowhere to go after tragedy struck.

The community of faith that Jesus put together, called the church, is a loving and caring group of folks who know how to make a difference. What would happen if that caring ministry touched the lives of a

hurting, cold, stuck-in-their-predicament world? What would happen if we were not locked inside the church?

**Think about the proclamation of Good News.** Somehow we must get it out of the church rather than just sharing it among ourselves over and over again. We have a glorious Word and God-gifted people who can preach and teach that Word, but many who need it most never hear it for we keep it locked inside. How many times have you heard the soul-stirring, uplifting message that Jesus loves you so much that He died in your place so that you could have your sins taken away and a life abundant, free, and everlasting given to you? It may have become second nature and even old hat to you, but the people who are burdened down by the guilt of their sin, captured by the addiction of their wrong living, and capsuled in the darkness and despair of lostness need the light and the hope that are found in the promises of God's Word. What if on one given Sunday everyone who came to church got the message, were thrilled with the living Christ dwelling among them, unlocked the door, and walked out to share that truth with friends, family, co-workers, and even strangers? Would it make a difference? You know it would because Jesus makes a difference.

**Finally, would you consider for a moment what the majesty of worship means to you?** Have you ever had a tough week and it seemed like just too many things went wrong? Too many relationships seemed to sour, too many decisions seemed to be out of sink, too many burdens seemed to be piled on — and then you came to worship. Suddenly in a brief period of time life looked different. You met with God and through eyes of faith and the confidence that

was stirred in your heart by meeting with our great God you knew things would be okay. When John wrote his little epistle of First John, he knew that the believers then and now would have some rough days living in this old world. There would be temptations, traps, tumbles, tares, efforts that failed, and dreams that were shattered, but he said, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

A great worship experience is not just a string of several songs put together, not just a sermon that fill the time frame on Sunday, and not even just a meeting of a bunch of people in a building, but it is a life-changing encounter with our wonderful, gracious, and giving God. Worship experiences do not need to stay locked in a building, stopped at the door, and never be taken into a world that needs to see that we have been with Jesus.

When Moses came down off the mountain after his meeting with God, his face was shining with a radiance that the people could see. Something had happened to him. We do not need to be locked inside, for the world today needs to see the shining faces of saints who have been made different because they have met with God. The locks need to be turned around.

In no way am I saying that we ought to lock people out, but please understand neither do we need to be locked inside the church. Ask God to help you get the locks changed so that wonderful, God-prompted, and caring ministry can get outside your church. Ask Him to help you understand how you can be one who conveys the proclamation beyond the walls and tells people about Jesus. Ask the Lord to help you truly worship Him so that when you get outside the doors of the church, your life will be full and overflowing into every place your path may lead so that people will see and know that you have been with Him.

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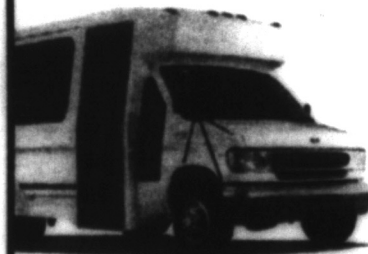
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# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 22, 2007

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

## Mississippi Missionary Parents Fellowship Mississippi Missionaries Fellowship

### MMPF & MMF SPRING FELLOWSHIPS

Friday and Saturday, April 20-21

FBC, Madison

(To take place during the Annual Missions Celebration,  
April 20-21)

All missionaries & missionary parents  
are invited to the Friday night  
MISSIONS BANQUET at 5:00 p.m.  
FBC, Madison, Fellowship Hall  
"MEET & GREET" at 6:15 - 7:45 p.m.  
FLAG PROCESSIONAL INTO WORSHIP at 8:00 p.m.

Contact Kathy Burns, MS wMu, for info & registration forms: [kburns@mbcb.org](mailto:kburns@mbcb.org),  
1-601-292-3324 or 1-800-748-1651.

**PLEASE REGISTER BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4.**

### MMPF SPRING FELLOWSHIP

Friday, April 20

2:15 - 4:45 p.m.

FBC, Madison, Conference Room

**WHO?** All parents (and relatives) of former and currently active missionaries, home and international (foreign), including Journeymen, ISCers, MKs, etc.

**COST:** No Cost for Fellowship



### MMF FELLOWSHIP & BUSINESS SESSIONS

Saturday, April 21

9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

FBC, Madison, Conference Room

**WHO?** All former and currently active missionaries, home and international (foreign), including Journeymen, ISCers, Mission Service Corp Volunteers and Adult MKs.

**COST:** No Cost for Fellowship

## 2007 Young Musicians Camps

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**June 18-22**

**Guest Director: Lois Ann Roberts**

Music specialist and writer  
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**Guest Director: Jane**

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Worship producer, FBC



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**LEARN** - classes in music activities, handbells, orff, voice and spiritual growth

**RECREATION** - superslide, swimming, horse safety, crafts, crocheting and more

**COST** - \$120 per camper and sponsor (includes rooms and meals). Music and t-shirt are extra costs. **COMMUTER FEE** - \$30 plus meals

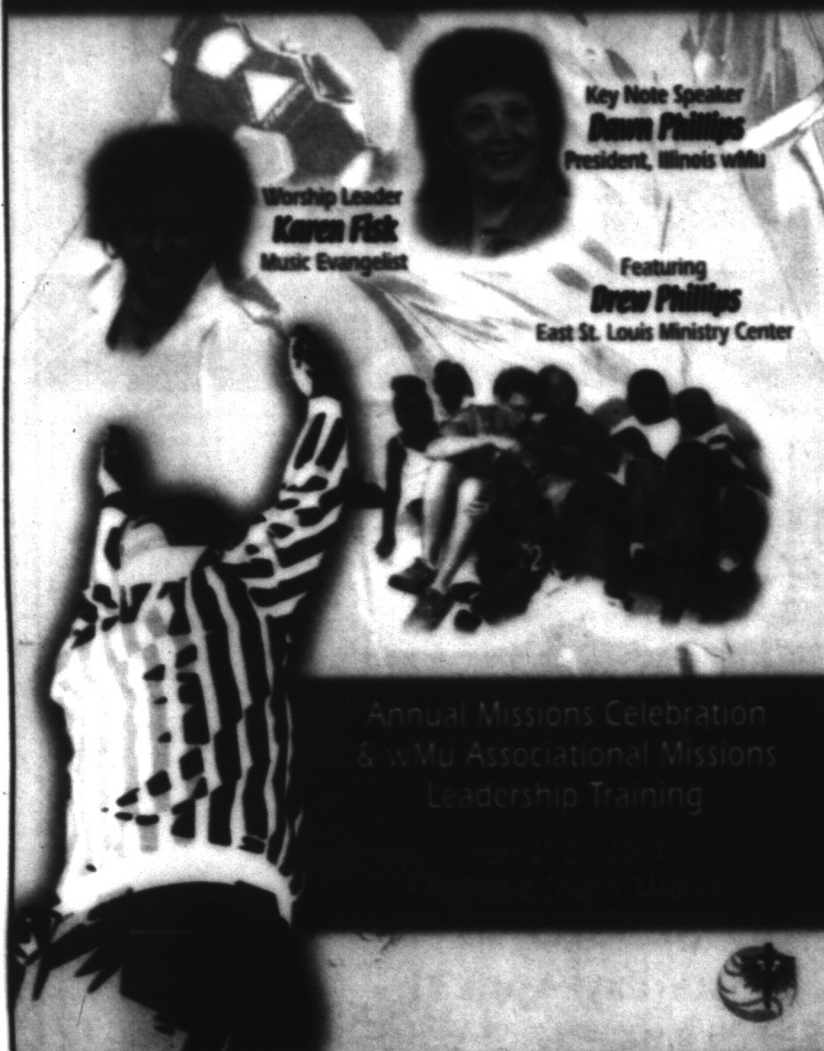
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Forms available in **Noted Events Book** or online at [www.mbcb.org](http://www.mbcb.org). Reservation requests are accepted by **MAIL ONLY**. Telephone reservation requests cannot be accepted. **Send all reservation requests to the Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.**

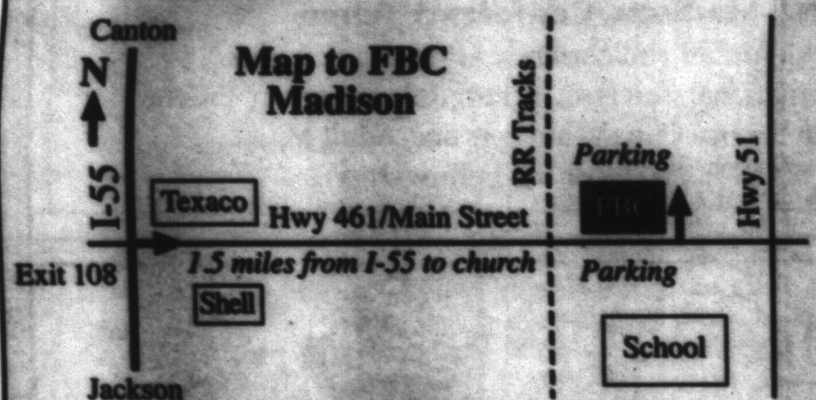
*Questions? Call the Church Music Department: 601-292-3267 or 1-800-748-1651.*



*"It's Your Call!"*



Annual Missions Celebration  
wMu Associational Missions  
Leadership Training



For more info, contact Mississippi wMu at  
601-292-3319 or spruitt@mbcb.org.  
Go to [www.mbcb.org](http://www.mbcb.org). Click on: Departments, Mission Strategy,  
Woman's Missionary Union.

2 0 0 7

MONDAY, APRIL 23



TUESDAY, APRIL 24

EMMANUEL BC  
GRENADA

PREACHING

FEATURED  
PRESENTER  
O.S. Hawkins  
President  
Guidance  
Financial  
Resources

Please register by April 20, 2007, so that we might prepare  
materials. For more registration and information call: Pastor Leadership  
Development Department, 601-292-3305 or 1-800-748-1651.

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JULY 7-11, 2007  
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

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UNITE WITH ONE VOICE AND PASSION.

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**REGISTER NOW**  
1.800.748.1651, EXT. 284

## Small Church/Bivocational Church Pastor's Workshop

- Temple BC, Hattiesburg, June 25, 2-9 p.m.
- Emmanuel BC, Grenada, June 26, 2-9 p.m.

Led by Paul Powell

Sponsored by Pastor/Leadership Development Department  
Contact Kay McDonnell (601-292-3305, 1-800-748-1651,  
or [kaymcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kaymcdonnell@mbcb.org)) for further details.





# Sync Up

The Power of Working Together



Bill Taylor  
President  
Bill Taylor &  
Associates

Brent Taylor  
Senior Pastor  
FBC, Carrollton, Texas

Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 510, Jackson, MS 39205  
Phone: 601.748.1651, 601.748.1651 (local), eddy@mbcb.org

## A Workshop for Pastors, Ministers of Education, Sunday School Directors

April 10

North Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford

April 11 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

April 12

Petal-Harvey Baptist Church, Petal



**Sync Up** will provide you the opportunity to build upon the foundation that you have with those who share a common mission. **Bill Taylor**, with his extensive background in building ministry teams in local churches and at the denominational level, and **Brent Taylor**, a God-called pastor and shepherd of the local church congregation, have worked together to develop a conference to help both the pastor and his minister of education of larger churches and the pastor and his Sunday School director of smaller churches.

### The power of working together will help the team:

- Dialogue and plan for the most productive ministry possible.
- Understand the role of the pastor.
- Clarify a God-given vision.
- Understand the role of the minister of education and Sunday School director.
- Know what the pastor needs from his education staff.
- Know what the education staff needs from their pastor.
- Work together to build God's kingdom.

### These TWO conferences are designed for:

- **The Pastor and his Minister of Education**  
9 a.m.-2 p.m., \$15 per person  
*Larger church emphasis*
- **The Pastor and his Sunday School Director**  
6 p.m.-9 p.m., \$10 per person  
*Smaller church emphasis*

**Must Preregister:**  
**Registration forms**  
**at [www.mbcb.org](http://www.mbcb.org)**

# Interim Pastor Training



Golden Triangle Baptist Association Office

**Columbus**  
**May 1**

9 a.m. - noon



Thirty-Eighth Avenue BC

**Hattiesburg**  
**November 13**

9 a.m. - noon



LED BY:

**Alan Woodward**

Director

MBCB Pastor/Leadership Development  
Department

**Frank Harmon**

Director

MBCB Church-Minister Relations  
Department

For more information, contact  
Pam May, Church-Minister Relations Department  
601-292-3225, 1-800-748-1651,  
or E-mail [pmay@mbcb.org](mailto:pmay@mbcb.org)

## VBS Church Leadership Trainings for '07

### WE'VE HEARD YOUR PLEAS AND WE'VE ANSWERED.

For the first time ever, we have planned VBS Church Leadership Trainings for YOUR church and surrounding areas. We encourage you to send your Church VBS Leadership to be a part of this exciting event. We guarantee a FUN time of fellowship.

### Conferences offered

#### Clinic - Game Day Central

- Younger Preschool Conference
- Older Preschool Conference
- Younger Children's Conference
- Middle Children's Conference
- Older Children's Conference
- Youth Conference - NEW
- Adult Conference - NEW
- Pastor/Evangelism Conference
- General Officer Conference
- Children's Rotation: Missions, Music, Crafts, Snacks

#### Club VBS - Jungle Jaunt

### ALL CONFERENCES

6:30 p.m. worship rally  
7-9 p.m. conference

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| April 23 | North Oxford<br>Oxford<br>FBC, Louisville<br>FBC, Natchez |
| April 24 | FBC, Tupelo<br>FBC, Yazoo City<br>FBC, Purvis             |
| April 26 | North Greenwood<br>Greenwood                              |
| April 30 | FBC, Meridian   |



Contact Angie Boydston, Preschool/Children's Consultant with the Sunday School Dept., at 601.292.3294 or 1.800.748.1651, ext. 294, or by E-mail at [aboydstun@mbcb.org](mailto:aboydstun@mbcb.org).



## Pray this day for...

March 23 - April 5, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*"It concerns us greatly to look at Evangelical Humiliation as one of the most essential things pertaining to true Christianity. This is the principal part of the great Christian duty of self-denial."*

Jonathan Edwards

R, a new Christian in Durban, South Africa, was recently mugged for the second time in less than eight months. He came to know Christ as his Savior after his first mugging. Pray for safety for R. Ask God to bless R, who has become a faithful witness to members of his family. May God bless him as he works with missionaries.

The second annual retreat for pastors' wives will be held on April 9-12 on a major island in the Caribbean. This is a very important time to minister to and encourage these women. Pray that God would enable many to attend, as transportation is not easily accessible, and ask that child-care be provided.

Pray for personnel in a country in SE Asia. One family with many agricultural projects has 30 days to move their household and all their projects. One mother is very ill. Several are in full-time language study. Pray for encouragement, victories and good health and that helpers will be compassionate and capable.

Missionaries Dave and Nancy Clines write: "Thank you for praying for the new house church in Villa Alpinas, in Panama City. We began with a Tuesday evening Bible study and now worship as a church on Saturday evenings. Pray for wisdom for us as we seek ways to minister to the families in Villa Alpinas."

Ken Stice serves as a chaplain for the Army's unit ministry teams in Hawaii. There will be 40 chaplain teams providing ministry in U.S. forces for a one-year deployment. Pray for the families of chaplains and chaplain assistants to know God's peace during separation.

Emory Lussi is a Navy chaplain serving the Coast Guard from South Carolina to Florida. Pray for safety as he travels, for his three sons in the military, and for more reserve chaplains to help in ministry to the Coast Guard.

Although God is answering your prayers for partnering churches willing to work among the unreached Bambara in Mali, Africa, no one has looked at the IMB job requests on file for career personnel among them. There is a strong need for church planters among the four Bambara people. Ask God to call people to work with them.

The newest church start in the Southern Province of Zambia is in Namwala. A core group of believers are faithfully meeting. New people are being added as members share their faith. Zambians P and B have taken on the responsibility of leading this small group. Pray for them as they lead this new church.

(1) Church Library Ministry Retreat, Camp Garaywa, 29th - 31st (CS); (2) In recent months you have prayed for IMB personnel to work with a Muslim in South Africa. Praise the Lord for a couple who feels called to this ministry! Pray for adjustment for this family. Ask the Lord to provide direction for them.

Harassment of Chinese Christian leaders seems to have increased in China in recent weeks. Pray that all who are brought before authorities because of their stand for Christ will know what to say. Ask the Lord to give them courage in the face of danger and a strong radiant testimony that will impact all who are present.

S shared with a Harvest Hands team member, that God has been moving in his life in relationship to his wife and home. They have been separated and in the process of a divorce. He and his wife have terminated the divorce process. Pray that God will honor their desire to please Him as a family.

Praise the Lord for two teams working among the Turks in the Balkans, a construction team and a hunting team. The hunters help the local shepherds eliminate the wolves attacking their flocks. Pray that they can lead them to the Great Shepherd who eliminates the wolf that attacks our souls.

(1) Young Musicians Festival Adjudication, FBC, Clinton, 7-9 p.m.; (2) Young Pastor's Retreat, Lake Tlak O'Khata, Louisville, 30th - 31st (P/LD); (3) March 30th - April 1st Mississippi Actors Convention (MAC), Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss. (WMU).

(1) Young Musicians Festival, Mississippi College, Clinton, 8:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. (CM); (2) Please pray today for Prime Minister Johannes Eidesgard of Faeroe Islands (North Atlantic Ocean, between Iceland and Norway).

## Growing Churches

Equipping the Body of Christ to Serve and Teach  
"for the training of the saints in the work of ministry,  
to build up the body of Christ..." Ephesians 4:12 (HCSB)

**FBC, Tupelo**

**Friday & Saturday, July 27-28, 2007**

Friday: Registration 4 - 7 p.m.

Saturday: Late Registration 8 a.m.

Conference: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

No child care on sight

**Cost: \$5 per person**

Send Registration to:

Lee County Baptist Association, PO Box 2640, Tupelo MS 38803

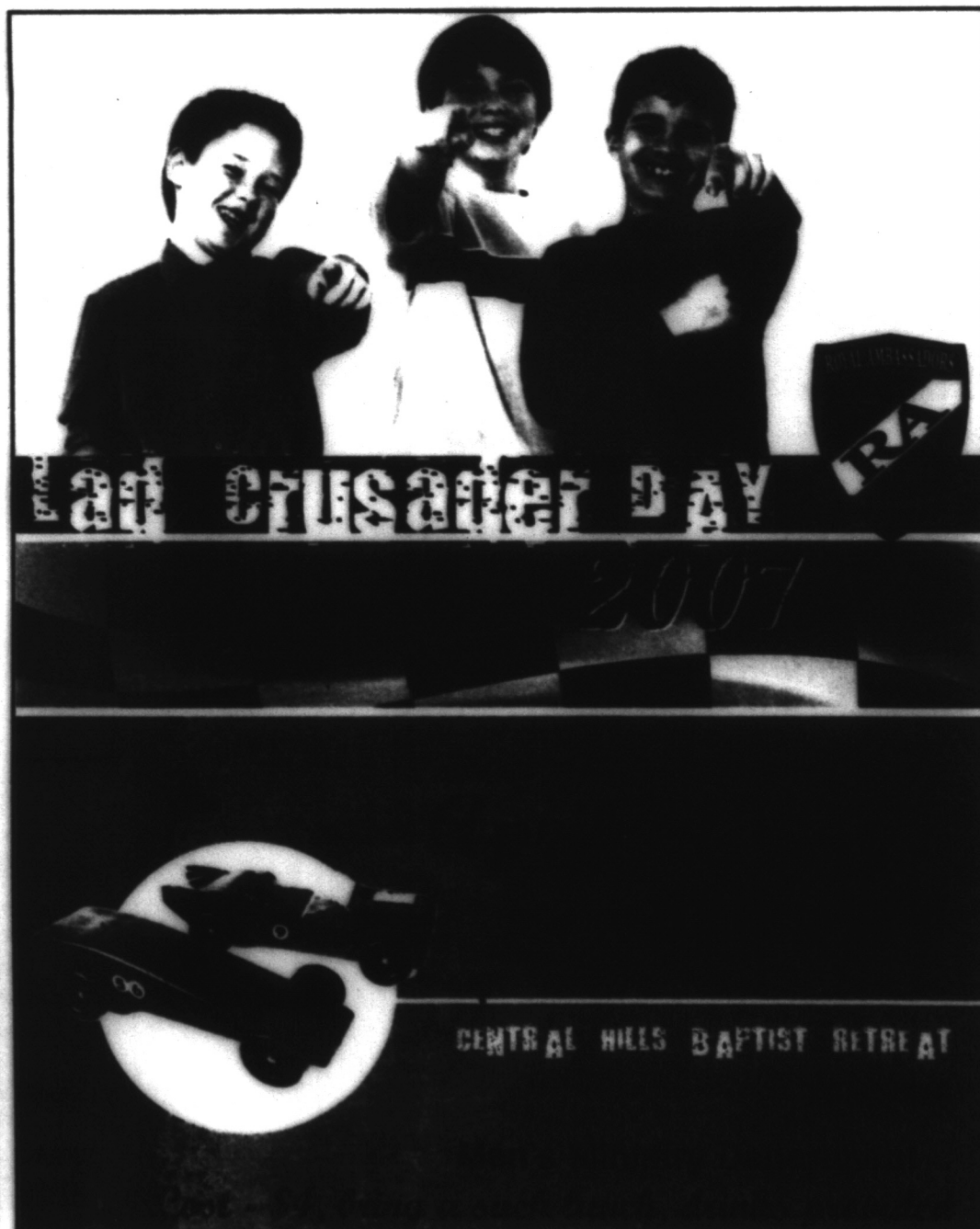
This conference will address topics for those working  
or interested in the following areas:

Preschool  
College/Career  
Senior Adults  
Men's Ministry  
Church Planting  
Sunday School  
Wmu

Children  
Singles  
Pastors  
Deacons  
International Ministries  
Discipleship  
Personal Enrichment

Youth  
Adults  
Women's Ministry  
Mission Trip Planning  
Music/Worship  
Evangelism  
Bible Drill/Youth Speakers

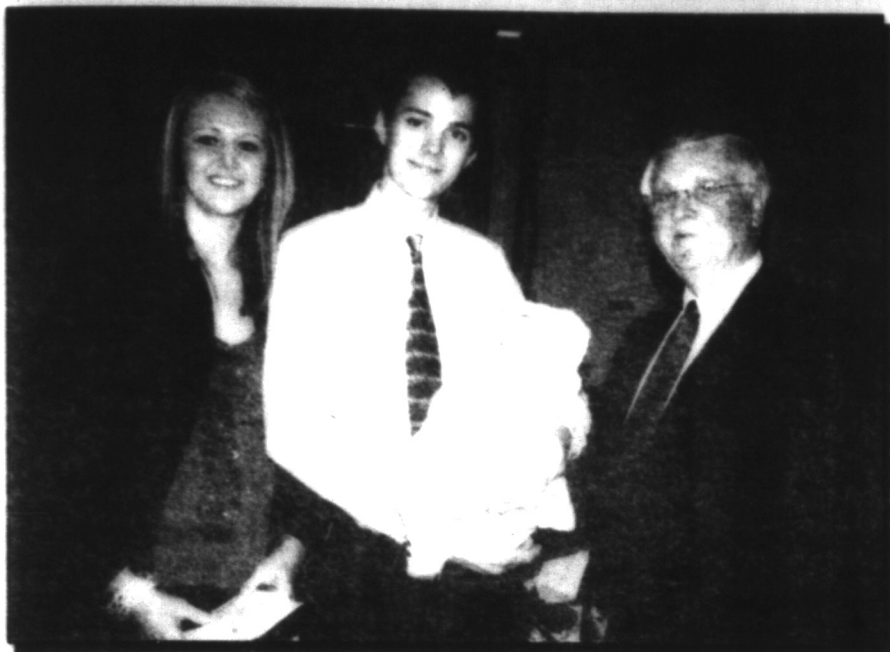
For information, contact: Discipleship and Family Ministry Department,  
1-800-748-1651, dhicks@mbcb.org, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205



# HOUSE TOPS



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Baby Dedication, Concord Church, Booneville

1. **Concord Church, Booneville**, recently held a baby dedication service. Pictured (from left) are parents Lacy and Walker Caver, Chloe Lane Carver, and pastor Robert E. Walker.

2. **Antioch Church, Rankin Association**, held a note-burning service on February 11, to recognize that the debt on the new building had been paid in full. Pictured are Paul Arender, committee chairman; Gayden Harrell,

pastor; and other committee members.

3. **Midway Church, Pontotoc**, recently observed Baptist Men's Day. Pictured are members of the church who were recognized as part of the observance. Tommy Tackett, pastor.

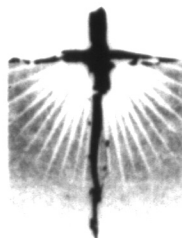
4. **Bethel Church, Bogue Chitto**, recently ordained two deacons. Pictured (from left) are Adam Moak; Jeff Davis, pastor; and Bruce Wallace.



2. Noteburning, Antioch Church, Rankin Association



3. Baptist Men's Day, Midway Church, Pontotoc



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

5. **First Church, Kosciusko**, recently honored Faye Wiggers (right) upon her retirement as minister of music for 25 years. Pictured with her is husband Scott Wiggers, a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



4. Deacon Ordination, Bethel Church, Bogue Chitto

6. **New Hope Church, Foxworth**, will host the Columbia Academy Junior High and High School Show Choir on March 26 at 6 p.m. Dessert and coffee/tea will be provided. A love offering will be taken. RSVP by March 23 to Wanda Morgan after 6 p.m. at (601) 736-9688, or the church office before 1 p.m. at (601) 736-6511.

7. Revive, Renew, Rejoice is the theme of the 2007 **Southern Baptist Convention** Ministers' Wives Luncheon June 12 in San Antonio. Speaker will be Nancy Leigh DeMoss with entertainment by Dennis Swanberg. For more information, call (904) 366-1244.

8. **Bellevue Church, Hattiesburg**, will have a dedication service on April 1 at 10:15 a.m. to rededicate the church's buildings that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

9. **Calvary Church, Ellisville**, voted unanimously on February 11 to build a new, 500-seat Sanctuary at a cost of \$670,000. The church baptized 75 people last year. Steve Nixon is pastor.

10. **Cedar Grove Church, Lena**, will host Carroll Roberson in concert on April 27 at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken.



5. Wiggers Honored, First Church, Kosciusko

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Trinity Church, Pearl: 35th Anniversary, March 25;** Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall and after-lunch music. Kenny Goff, pastor.

**Silver Springs Church, Osyka: 125th Anniversary, April 27.** Wayne Hall, pastor.

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

**Courtland Church, Courtland: Revival, March 25-28;** Sunday 11 a.m. and each evening at 7 p.m.. Eric Payne, speaker; Chuck Waller, music. Charles Locke, pastor.

**First Church, Polkville: Spring Revival, March 25-28;** James Messer, speaker. Mike Gaddes, music.

**Linwood Church, Union: Revival, March 25-28;** Sunday 11 a.m. followed by lunch. Sunday evening through Wednesday evening 7 p.m.; Jerry Skinner, speaker.

**New Hope Church, McComb: Spring Revival, March 26-28;** 7 p.m. each evening. Speakers include Curtis Body (March 26), Jimmy Black Jr. (March 27), and Will T. Jones (March 28). J. Wesley Jones, pastor.

**New Zion Church, Crystal Springs: Revival, April 1-4;** Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; dinner on the grounds after morning service; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Ronnie Falvey, speaker; Hubert Greer, music.

**Silver Springs Church, Osyka: Homecoming and Dedication of remodeled sanctuary, April 29, 10 a.m.;** covered dish following service; Jim Thornhill, speaker. Wayne Hall, pastor.

**Trinity Church, Pearl: Revival, April 1-4;** Regular Sunday services; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Dean Smith, speaker; Joe Wood, music. Kenny Goff, pastor.

## EASTER SERVICES

**Sunrise Church, Carthage:** My Savior, My God Easter Cantata March 31 at 6:30 p.m.; Jim McEachern, director. Refreshments will follow service.

**First Church Pecan Grove, Ellisville:** Sunrise Service April 8 at 7 a.m. Light breakfast served. No evening service. For more information, contact Chris Wheeler at (601) 477-4916.



# Dred Scott descendant takes pro-life stand

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
copyrighted 2005

QFBLOFH, VG CFUIPF  
CLFNQLFH, QBNQ HIN  
ZIE DQIMFH NQF TIIL IW  
NQRM KILUE LRDQ RH  
WBRNQ, BHE QFRML IW  
NQF ORHZEIV KQRDQ  
QF QBNQ TLIVRMFE NI  
NQFV NQBN UIPF QRV?

SBVFM NKI:WRPF

Clue: T = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Nine: Twelve.

ST. LOUIS (BP) — The great-great granddaughter of Dred Scott is using her heritage to proclaim the rights of unborn babies to be counted as full individuals, with some pro-life advocates hopeful that just as the Dred Scott decision was overturned, *Roe v. Wade* may eventually face a similar fate.

On March 6, 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the landmark Dred Scott decision, ruling that the drafters of the Constitution had viewed all blacks as "beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations, and so far inferior that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect."

Scott, a black man, fought for his freedom after his master's death, arguing that since he had lived with his master in a free territory he had become legally free and could not revert to the status of a slave. After much legal wrangling, the court ruled in *Dred Scott v. Sanford* that as a person of African descent, Scott could never be a U.S. citizen and thereby lacked the capacity to file a lawsuit.

The decision, which helped spur the Civil War, was overturned by the 13th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution as blacks won the right to be counted as citizens and to benefit from the American judicial system.

Some opponents of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision on abortion have referred to the Dred Scott decision in their hopes of gaining full rights for unborn children and having *Roe* overturned. Both decisions counted an entire class of people as property and popular opinion supported both decisions.

Scott's descendant, Lynne Jackson, is among those who believe *Roe v. Wade* was wrong.

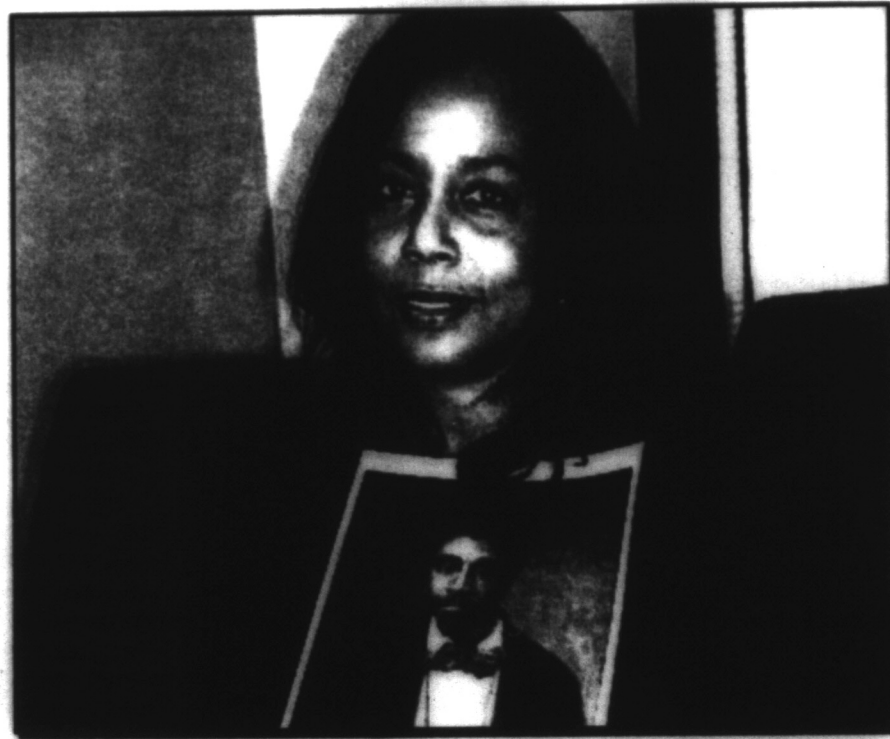
"I know children, when they just hear that little babies are being killed before they're born, who say, 'That's not right. Did you want to kill me?'" Jackson, a member of the St. Louis-area Cross Keys Church in Florissant, Mo., said in an interview with *The Pathway*, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention. "The sensibilities and just the pure innocence of children alone know that this is wrong."

"Have you ever seen a baby aborted in the womb? Well, I have," she added, describing what she viewed: "You see this beautiful form of a darling baby just floating around, doing well, and then you see the introduction of these pincers that go in and the baby starts to flinch and move back and forth, as if to get away from this thing that's poking and prodding at them. Then it becomes pretty violent."

"After that, you begin to see the baby's form become less specific. It begins to degrade," Jackson continued. "Eventually, you really can't see the arms and legs anymore, of course, because it's being pulled apart in that particular procedure. So now you're just looking at stuff floating, where a minute ago you were looking at a baby — and it is a baby, and life does begin at conception."

As Jackson marks the 150th anniversary of the Dred Scott decision, she hopes that what her great-great grandfather helped accomplish for the African American race pro-life leaders can help secure for unborn babies: the right to be counted as full and valuable human beings.

"The human race is of one blood," she said. "You can't pick off a couple of races here and there and decide that they're not."



**FIGHTING FOR UNBORN** — Lynne Jackson, great-great granddaughter of Dred Scott, sees the rights of unborn babies as paralleling the African-American slave who was ruled to be less than a person by the United States Supreme Court in 1857. (BP photo by Allen Palmeri/The Pathway)

## College News

1. The African-American Cultural Society of William Carey University will host their annual Gospel Extravaganza on March 24 at 6 p.m. in Smith Auditorium of the schools Hattiesburg campus. For ticket information, contact Heather Dyse at (601) 325-4992 or Vanesha Warren at (601) 325-5766.
2. Robert Knupp, assistant professor of music at Mississippi College, has released a CD to benefit a church seeking to replace organs lost to Hurricane Katrina. Knupp recorded seven organs in churches across the state including First Church, Pascagoula, where the organ survived Katrina without damage. Cost is \$10 per CD plus three dollars shipping and handling. Mail requests for purchase to Knupp at Mississippi College Music Department, P.O. Box 4021, Clinton, MS 39058.
3. The Jan Grissom concert planned for March 22 at William Carey University in Hattiesburg has been postponed. New information will be distributed at a later date. Grissom, a native of Myrtle, is a professional soprano who has sung at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. For more information, call (601) 318-6175.

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## MS Positions

**POCAHONTAS BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a part-time youth pastor. Send resumes to Pocahontas Baptist Church, 4200 Kickapoo Road, Jackson, MS 39209 or call (601) 982-2305.

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**, Pascagoula, Miss., is seeking a pastor for a growing church. Please send resumes with picture to: Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. 2278, Pascagoula, MS 39567 — Attention: Bill Pope.

**SPRINGDALE BAPTIST CHURCH** in Attala county is seeking a pastor, preferably bivocational. Please send resume to pastor search committee, 28110 Hwy 19 North Kosciusko, MS 39090.

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**LASALLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** is accepting resumes for the position of Ministry Coordinator (aka DOM) through May 1, 2007. Resumes may be sent to Randy Ray, 452 Fellowship Road, Trout, LA 71371 or email: randyray@centurytel.net.

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY,** Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743.

**BILL GAITHER 3 DAY FESTIVAL,** Gatlinburg tour. Five nights, 6 days, 3 evening concerts, 2 morning services. Total package: bus, lodging, tickets & most meals \$780 (double occ). Purpose Driven Tours, Wayne Barber (601) 371-8733. Many other tours available.

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**GATLINBURG GETAWAY:** 2 BR/2 BATH, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, \$65 nite. Call for information at (251) 666-2175 or (251) 689-9982 or pdlw@worldnet.att.net.

**HOPPER GLASS STUDIO,** CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY,** free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

**SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON,** Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

**FOR LEASE: 6500 SQ. FT. COMMERCIAL** bldg, 4234 Lakeland (corner Airport/Lakeland) 3000 sq. ft. finished office, 3500 sq. ft. open. Three heat/air units, 3-phase elect., 55,000 + cars daily! To show call owner/agent Alah Clark (601) 260-8725; Nick Clark (601) 317-2536.

**FULL-TIME PASTOR NEEDED:** Send resume to First Baptist Church, Central, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 9676 Sullivan Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70818 or Fax (225) 261-6500. For more info, call (225) 261-3722.

**SAN ANTONIO CONVENTION:** Choice hotel packages. Discount airfares, car rentals. San Antonio motorcoach tours \$29. Four day tour to Mexico \$399. Christiantravelers.com, (800) 972-8952.

**PEWS FOR SALE:** 24-15 ft. blue-cushioned pews in good condition. Asking \$100 per pew. Call (205) 758-5599.

**FBC BUDE IS A DYNAMIC** and growing church in the Franklin Association. We are receiving resumes for the position of minister of music and/or youth through the date of May 1, 2007. All those who prayerfully would like to submit a resume should do so by mailing their information to FBC Bude search team, 235 Bude Baptist Rd., Bude, MS 39630.

**AL/FL: 2 BEACHFRONT CONDOS.** Perdido Key, Florida: for rent/sale: weekly rental only, 2 BR/2 bath, sleeps 8. Boat slip/pens available. Orange Beach, Alabama: April/May specials, 2 BR/2 bath, sleeps 8, 3 night minimum, (601) 849-2767.

**SMALL COUNTRY, GROWING CHURCH** needs the following: bus to be used to bring children to church & DVD copier for shut in ministry. Call (662) 895-2306 or (901) 606-4423.



# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## Jesus Restores Our Lives

John 11:1,3,6-7,20-27,38-40,43-44

By Angie Boydston

The Saturday morning phone call changed our family's world forever. I heard my mom say that my dad had been in a car accident. My first thought was "He'll be okay; he's probably not hurt very badly. He is my dad after all."

Many times over the weeks that followed doctors, nurses, even family friends told us that he might not make it. I could never entertain that notion. Looking back, exhaustion or numbness might have caused my optimism. I would like to think it was my faith that God will always help us through times which might seem hopeless.

John 11 outlines a situation that seemed hopeless. Martha

and Mary were greatly concerned for their sick brother, Lazarus. They did what we all do in times of trouble. They called on their good friend, Jesus. This family had a very close relationship with Jesus. He had been to their home on another occasion where Mary anointed him with perfume. Verse 3 even indicates Jesus' had great love for Lazarus.

Jesus, however, delayed going to be with them for two days. His time was determined by the Father's plans, not others. He also knew that Lazarus was already dead by the time He got the message. He even told his disciples in verses 14 and 15 that He was glad. The situation would provide a great opportunity to further His kingdom.

As He approached their



Boydston

home in verse 20, Martha ran to Him. She believed that Jesus could have healed her brother if He had been there. Her sister Mary repeated the same belief just a few verses later. Other mourners also mentioned Jesus' healing of the blind and expressed faith that He surely could have prevented Lazarus' death.

Sometimes we take the approach of what "shoulda ... coulda ... woulda" happened if only Jesus had done something. God's plan and His timetable are not ours. You know the saying, "God is always on time." In times of despair, we must maintain our commitment to faith even if things don't work out the way we desire.

In verse 23, when Jesus told Martha that Lazarus would be raised from the dead, she understood Him to be referring to an eschatological event. She certainly trusted that those who believed in Jesus would never

die. She had great faith but no hint of the miracle to come.

Later, verses 38-44 describe the scene when Jesus went to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. With no preamble, He told the family and friends to move the stone. Moving the stone meant possible defilement of the grave and the sisters were hesitant. When they objected, Jesus reminded them of His earlier promise and they agreed the stone could be removed. To agree to Jesus' command required great faith and obedience.

Then, He called in loud voice for Lazarus to come out. Can you imagine the scene when he walked out of the tomb? Telling the onlookers to remove the grave clothes, Jesus restored Lazarus to his life just as it was before he became ill. Interestingly, we never get input from Lazarus; the account ends here at his restoration.

Sometimes in a time of crisis, God asks us to do something. It might not always make sense, but we should trust Him and

do it anyway. What stone are you willing to roll away? What objections will you raise?

In verse 40, Jesus pointed out that because they believed Him, they were able to see the glory of God at work. We too can see God's glory in our crises even if things are not restored exactly as before or are not remedied in the way we might want.

My dad did survive that car accident years ago. His life and our family were forever changed, however. His body was not restored exactly as Lazarus was. Does that mean that we lost faith in God's ability to bring us out of a hopeless situation? No — in fact, it has brought some of the greatest blessings and opportunities to see God's glory.

Is it always easy to hold on to our commitment to faith? No — but what will we miss if we don't?

Boydston is Preschool and Children's consultant in the Sunday School Dept., MBCB, and a member of Pinelake Church, Brandon.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Practice Christian Submission

1 Peter 2:13-25

By Ivan Parke

"Submission" has never been popular, especially when the alternatives are "freedom" or "domination."

In the 7th Century B.C., Babylon defeated Assyria, becoming the regional superpower. Meanwhile, Judah declined morally. Wicked kings like Manasseh and Amon misled the nation, promoting polytheism. Consequently, God announced imminent, irrevocable judgment (2 Kg. 22:14-20).

Zedekiah was the last king of Judah. During his reign, Jeremiah rightly advised him, "Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him and his people, and live! Why will you die, you and your people, by the sword, famine and pestilence, as the

Lord has spoken to that nation which will not serve the king of Babylon?" (Jer. 27:12-13) Zedekiah bristled, however, jailing Jeremiah (Jer. 32:1-5).

### 1. "Submission" preserves GOD'S order.

The Apostle Paul emphasized that God establishes every government (Rom. 13:1-7; see also Job 36:7; Dan. 2:21; 4:17; Jn. 19:11), reason enough to submit. Insubordination ultimately dishonors God.

In 2:13-17, Peter presented the same case to his readers. "Submitting to every human institution" is "the will of God" (one of three explicit "will of God" statements in Scripture, see also 1 Th. 4:3; 5:18).

The kind of ruler, king (greater authority) or governor



Parke

(lesser authority), does not matter. Peter expected compliance, appealing to the highest motivation: "for the Lord's sake" (2:13) and "as bondslaves of God" (2:16). Paul did too (see Eph. 5:22-6:9; Col. 3:18-25).

Verse 17 features four commands: "honor" (appears twice), "love" (Gk. *agapao*) and "fear." Their direct objects form complementary pairs. "Brotherhood" designates the Church (its members) whereas "all men" refers to the world (its population). A "king" is sovereign on earth whereas "God" is Sovereign on earth and in heaven.

### 2. "Submission" proclaims a convincing witness.

Peter was not naive. He did not assume that all authority is worthy of respect. Slave owners, for example, may be taskmasters. The Greek adjective, translated "harsh" (NIV) or "unreasonable," literally means "bent, crooked, or per-

verse" (2:18). Nevertheless, Peter did not advocate revolt (see also Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22-4:1; 1 Tim. 6:1-2).

Abusive leaders unintentionally create opportunities for underlings to do the unexpected, i.e., to submit. Submission effectively demonstrates the merits of Christianity, silencing critics of our faith (2:13, 15). It also pleases God; "commendable" (2:19, 20—NIV) according to Peter. Our calling is to take such risks (2:21).

The first half of verse 20 (its structure resembles Lk. 6:32-34) issues a subtle warning to all underlings: "Do not misbehave." The consequences (justified suffering) for disobedience include a damaged reputation that hampers witnessing (evangelism). The Greek noun, translated "credit," also signifies "fame, renown, or prestige."

### 3. "Submission" provided our salvation.

In verses 21-23, Peter cited Jesus as our role model. Although sinless (2:22), He endured the greatest suffering.

The Greek verb, translated "revile" (2:23), is a present tense participle, indicating that the undeserved verbal abuse was constant (i.e., "being reviled"). Jesus, when persecuted, trusted the Father fully (2:23; see also 1:17).

By submitting, Jesus died on a cross to save us (see Heb. 12:2-3). The second half of verse 24 addresses our spiritual rehabilitation; literally "we were healed"—a past tense action, a historical fact. We used to be "dead" (Eph. 2:1, 5; Col. 2:13). To be righteous, like Him, is now possible (see Rom. 6:2, 13).

Isaiah 52:13-53:12, a "Suffering Servant Song," inspired verses 21-25: [a] verse 22: Isaiah 53:9, [b] verse 23: Isaiah 53:7, [c] verse 24: Isaiah 53:4-5, 11, and [d] verse 25: Isaiah 53:6 (see also 5:4; Jn. 10:11-18, 25-30).

Scriptures cited are from the New American Standard unless otherwise indicated.

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## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



Photograph attachments are permissible. Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

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All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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# Burned Ala. churches rising from ashes of arson spree

CENTREVILLE, Ala. (BP) — On any given night, someone somewhere in the state of Alabama is guarding the perimeter of a Baptist church to keep from finding it in ashes the next morning.

That's reality in rural Alabama, a year after five small Baptist congregations in Bibb County awakened to find that arsonists had struck their churches during the night, burning three to the ground and damaging two in February 2006.

Several days later, four Baptist congregations in west Alabama found their churches had suffered the same fate.

While three college-aged men were arrested a month later for the nine fires, sporadic arson attacks on churches of different denominations continued to plague the state. Rocky Mount Church in Talladega County joined the list of arson victims last October.

Jim Parker, pastor of Ashby Church in Brierfield, said a year of sifting through the ashes hasn't been altogether bad. What seemed like a brutal step backward actually has put his church nearly a decade ahead in its growth process, he told The Alabama Baptist newsjournal.

Ashby Church, one of the first to lose its buildings in the string of arson attacks, has been meeting in two mobile chapels provided by the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. The congregation plans to construct a new building that's bigger and in a better location than the original.

The current Ashby site is tucked away in the woods, but thanks to a church member's donation the new building will sit on a 10-acre plot on state Highway 139, a major Bibb County thoroughfare.

Nearby Rehobeth Church in Lawley lost its sanctuary the same night as Ashby.

"Things are going very well, about as normal as they can be under the circumstances," pastor Duane Schliep said.

Since the fire, the congregation has met for worship in the fellowship hall that survived and has held Sunday School in a mobile chapel from the State Board of Missions.

Like Ashby and the other burned churches, Rehobeth has received donations of money and supplies from people and churches all over the nation. Many of the churches also received gifts from Alabama Baptists through the State Board of Missions totaling \$192,000, and funds from Birmingham-Southern College, where the three arsonists met each other as students.

Antioch Church in Centreville and Old Union Church in Randolph suffered minor damage when they were burned last year. Antioch needed about \$8,000 in repairs, including having the ceiling replaced and fixing damaged doors. Church members decided to keep the burned communion table as a memorial.

Pleasant Sabine Church in nearby Centreville was the fifth church set ablaze that first night of arson attacks. A predominantly black church not affiliated with the Alabama Baptist State



THANKS TO GOD — Volunteers from several Alabama churches pray before lunch during a mid-January workday to help rebuild Galilee Church in Panola, one of nine churches attacked by arsonists in January 2006. (BP photo by Gary Franklin)

Convention, Pleasant Sabine Church didn't have the immediate connections to statewide Baptist resources that Ashby and Rehobeth did.

Allen was there to make sure the church got the help it needed. "Fifty Carpenters for Christ came in and built the church back. It was all done by volunteers," Allen said. "The volunteers stayed at our church while they were working at Pleasant Sabine."

Pleasant Sabine plans to host a countywide revival backed by the Bibb Association as a victory celebration. "The whole thing has just been the biggest blessing you've ever seen," Allen said. "God has kept our churches alive."

Though the inside of Dancy First Church near Aliceville was a total loss, the congregation got back into its building last July, a mere five months after the fire. Pickens Association churches fed and housed volunteer teams from Baptist churches around the state that gutted and renovated the interior of the church.

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church near Boligee broke ground on its property Jan. 7 and has poured footings for its new building. The proposed facility — twice the size of the church's

original building that burned to the ground — will include a sanctuary, fellowship hall, and library intended for use as a community outreach tool. Church members currently worship in a mobile chapel provided by the State Board of Missions.

The congregation of Spring Valley Church near Emelle, which suffered smoke damage, got back in its building at the end of the summer. In the wake of the fire, a church member was given a scholarship to Birmingham-Southern College as a gift to the church from the school. The scholarship recipient, Demetrius Foy, serves as interim pastor of Spring Valley Church.

The congregation of Galilee Church in Panola, whose building burned to the ground, is nearing the completion of its new building on land closer to the center of town than its original site. The building, a roughly 10,000-square-foot

metal-frame building, will house its sanctuary and educational space.

In January a team of about 50 volunteers from several Baptist churches in north Alabama began framing up the interior of the building, sections of which will be two-story.

"It's been one of the most blessed years of my life," Gary Farley, director of missions for the Pickens Association, said of his work in coordinating repairs to the four west Alabama churches. "It's been such a neat thing to be at a point where you see God working miracles one after another."

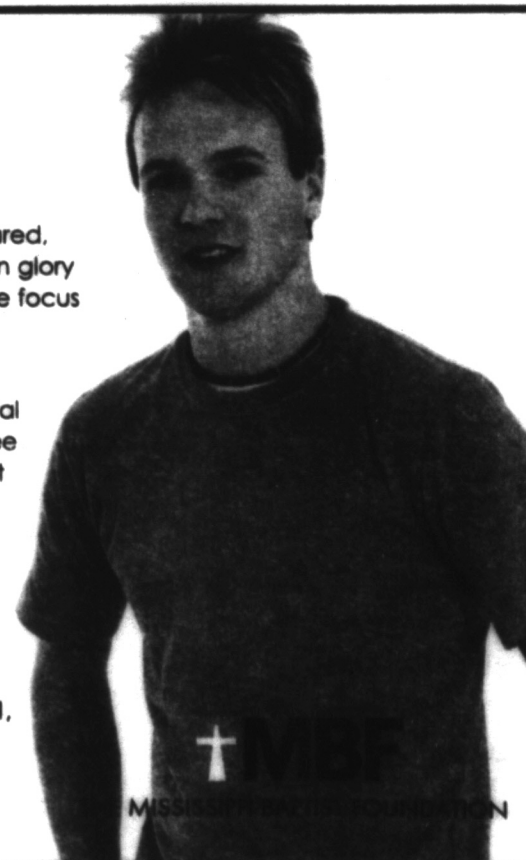
At Rocky Mount Church near Sylacauga, attendance has risen by 20% since the church was burned in October. Members have gathered in the family fellowship building while they make plans to build back their 3,000-square-foot sanctuary, beginning in the summer.

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION *Scholarship Ministry*

The apostle Paul expressed confidence in his Lord when he declared, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). This well-known verse highlights the focus of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry.

Due to the generosity of many faithful Christian stewards, the Foundation has the privilege of providing needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. Most of these endowed scholarship accounts offer specific eligibility guidelines for awarding a scholarship grant. Factors such as field of study, institution attended, and scholarship amount often are included as stipulated criteria for award consideration.

For more information about the Mississippi Baptist Foundation Scholarship Ministry, please contact our office at PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, telephone us at (601) 292-3210 or (800) 748-1651, or visit our website, [www.msbaftsfoundation.org](http://www.msbaftsfoundation.org). A completed application must be received in the MBF office by April 30.



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